

SENATOR BAACK: What bill are we on?

PRESIDENT: LB 327. Sorry to interrupt you, Senator Baack. (Laughter.)

SENATOR BAACK: That happens every once in awhile. Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, the committee amendments on LB 327 are mostly technical in nature. There is one, the one thing that we did insert into the bill, it's...we reinstated the words "in any one year", and that means that the cities that use this form of government are going to have to make the determination of whether they're going to have the elimination of a primary on a year-by-year basis. They can't just say we're not going to have primaries anymore, they have to do it on a year-by-year basis. So that is basically the amendments, and then Senator Wehrbein will explain the bill.

PRESIDENT: Okay, you've heard the explanation of the committee amendments. The question is the adoption of the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: The committee amendments are adopted. Now, Senator Wehrbein, on the bill.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President, members. This bill is a straightforward bill that really only deals with Nebraska City because it is the only first class city in Nebraska or any city that has a commission form of government. It's an attempt to harmonize some provisions in the statutes dealing with the elections. This bill would harmonize those provisions that are concerning most all other first class cities with Nebraska City. It will allow the city government to waive the primary elections for council members, if not enough candidates file. It would change the primary date from three weeks to four weeks prior to the city general election. Another, filing fees will be 1 percent of the position's salary, and it changes the date of filing for candidacy from 10 days prior to the election to 75 days prior for the incumbent, 60 days prior for others. In other words again, it simply harmonizes those provisions for Nebraska City, which is a commission form of government, to bring it in line with all other cities across the state that